

**From:** Hernandez, Emerald L. [mailto:ELHernandez@columbus.gov]

**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2017 1:44 PM

**To:** Melissa Wojnaroski

**Subject:** RE: Reminder: Deadline for Comments on Human Trafficking Report, Monday January 9

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Publications-Files/Publications-for-Law-Enforcement/Human-Trafficking-Reports/2013-Human-Trafficking-Annual-Report.aspx>

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Publications-Files/Publications-for-Law-Enforcement/Human-Trafficking-Reports/2014-Human-Trafficking-Annual-Report.aspx>

In 2014, the Legal and Legislative Subcommittee focused its attention on passing House Bill 130, the End Demand Act, which was introduced by subcommittee chair State Representative Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo). On June 20, 2014, Governor John Kasich signed Am. Sub. House Bill 130 into law, effective immediately. The most crucial provisions of the End Demand Act focused on those who sell and purchase sex with minors. The goal of the new bill was to bring Ohio law in line with the federal Trafficking in Persons law. The law removed the need to prove that a minor or someone with a developmental disability was compelled to engage in sex for hire. This provision in the law acknowledges that minors and those with developmental disabilities are more vulnerable to manipulation by traffickers. 3 Next, the law increased the penalty for those who solicit sex from a minor less than 16 years of age or a developmentally disabled person from a misdemeanor to a felony offense and requires the offender to register as a tier two sex offender. It also increased the penalty for purchasing sex from a minor aged 16-17 to a felony of the fifth degree. The goal of this part of the law was to stop the demand for sex with minors by targeting the johns who purchase them. Additionally, the law also increased protections for minors by prohibiting advertisement of sexual activity for hire if the materials depict a minor. This was done to target those traffickers who advertise minors for sex on online escort forums. Furthermore, the law gave child welfare and court officials the authority to terminate parental rights of a parent convicted of trafficking his or her own child. Finally, the law restricted the advertising of massage services to only those who are licensed to practice massage. Now, the advertisement of massage, relaxation massage, or any other massage technique or method with the suggestion or promise of sexual activity is prohibited. A violation of the statute will constitute the unlawful advertising of massage, a first degree misdemeanor.

In 2015

Ensuring that law enforcement and the justice system effectively carry out new state laws and policies is crucial to combating human trafficking in Ohio. For this reason, the Legal and Legislative Subcommittee focused on monitoring the implementation of House Bill 262 – Safe Harbor Act of 2012 and House Bill 130 – End Demand Act of 2014. It is important that the Ohio General Assembly work closely with the Ohio Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Commission and the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force to identify strengths and weaknesses in state 2 human trafficking laws. This is why the subcommittee convened in the fall of 2015 to discuss House Bill 283, sponsored by State Representative Teresa Fedor and House Bill 268, sponsored by State Representatives David Hall and Jonathan Dever of the 131st General Assembly as well as the Seventh Annual Ohio Human Trafficking Awareness Day, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. At this meeting, subcommittee members were asked to comment on the proposed language of both bills and make recommendations. Further meetings will be scheduled to continue the conversation on this legislation. The Legal and Legislative Subcommittee reported that the state of Ohio made gains in the 2014 state

ratings on human trafficking laws, released from Shared Hope International, a leading organization in the fight against modern-day slavery. Ohio received 78 out of 100 points – up 5.5 points from its grade of 72.5 in 2013. With the recent passage of House Bill 130, the End Demand Act, Ohio saw gains in the scored areas of, “Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, Criminal Provisions for Traffickers, and Protective Provisions for Child Victims

Here are the links and small bits from the latest Human Trafficking committee within the Ohio AG’s office. There has been quite a bit of movement in this area across the state, if you need anything else, feel free to contact me

Thanks!

Emerald

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